

Message Text

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PAGE 01 CANBER 04737 170613Z

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C O N F I D E N T I A L CANBERRA 4737

FOR AMBASSADORS FROM AMBASSADOR GREEN

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: AS, SW, NO, FI
SUBJECT: NEW AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN, NORWAY AND FINLAND,
LANCE BARNARD

1. AUSTRALIA'S NEW AMBASSADOR TO SWEDEN, NORWAY, AND FINLAND IS
LANCE HERBERT BARNARD, THE FORMER MINISTER OF DEFENSE IN THE
AUSTRALIAN LABOR PARTY GOVERNMENT AND THE FORMER DEPUTY PRIME
MINISTER IN THE FIRST WHITLAM GOVERNMENT. MR. BARNARD WILL BE
ARRIVING IN STOCKHOLM AROUND THE END OF AUGUST.

2. BARNARD WAS BORN ON MAY 1, 1919, IN LAUNCESTON, TASMANIA
AND WAS EDUCATED AT LAUNCESTON TECHNICAL COLLEGE. HE SERVED
IN AN AUSTRALIAN FIELD DIVISION IN THE MIDDLE EAST DURING
WORLD WAR II AND TAUGHT MATHEMATICS IN THE TASMANIAN SCHOOL
SYSTEM PRIOR TO ENTERING POLITICS. BARNARD WAS ELECTED TO
PARLIAMENT AS THE ALP MEMBER FOR THE BASS SEAT IN TASMANIA IN
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PAGE 02 CANBER 04737 170613Z

1954 SUCCEEDING HIS FATHER WHO HAD HELD THE SEAT FOR THE ALP

FOR 15 YEARS PRIOR TO BARNARD'S OWN ELECTION. BARNARD HELD THE BASS SEAT FOR LABOR FOR TWENTY ONE YEARS.

3. BARNARD RESIGNED FROM PARLIAMENT ON JUNE 2, 1975 OSTENSIBLY ON THE GROUNDS OF HIS WIFE'S ILL HEALTH. THIS WAS JUST ONE FACTOR. HIS HEARING WAS DAMAGED DURING W.W. II AND HAS DETERIORATED OVER THE YEARS. MOREOVER, HE WAS DEFEATED BY DR. J.F. CAIRNS IN THE CONTEST FOR THE DEPUTY LEADERSHIP OF THE ALP'S PARLIAMENTARY CAUCUS IN 1974. SINCE LOSING THE DEPUTY LEADERSHIP BARNARD HAS SOURED ON POLITICS AND HAS BEEN INTERESTED IN LEAVING THE POLITICAL SCENE FOR SOME TIME.

4. BARNARD HAS THROUGHOUT HIS POLITICAL CAREER BEEN A MODERATE, DECENT MAN WHO HAS BEEN AND REMAINS A GOOD FRIEND OF THE UNITED STATES. HE DID THE QUIET BEHIND THE SCENES WORK OF CONCILIATION IN SUPPORT OF PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM DURING LABOR'S LONG YEARS IN OPPOSITION WHICH MOVED WHITLAM UPWARD IN THE PARTY AND HELPED PAVE THE WAY FOR LABOR'S ASSUMPTION OF GOVERNMENT. HE HAS CONSISTENTLY OPPOSED RADICAL VIEWS OF THE ALP'S LEFT WING ON DEFENSE AND FOREIGN POLICY AND HAS BEEN A CONSTRUCTIVE AND STEADYING INFLUENCE ON THE PRIME MINISTER IN THESE MATTERS AS WELL.

5. BARNARD'S SECOND WIFE JILL, WHOM HE MARRIED IN 1962, IS THE DAUGHTER OF FORMER ALP SENATOR H.G.J. COURT OF PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA. THE BARNARDS ADOPTED A VIETNAMESE ORPHAN GIRL IN 1972 WHO SOON DIED OF PNEUMONIA AND SUBSEQUENTLY ADOPTED ANOTHER VIETNAMESE GIRL ORPHAN WHO IS NOW THREE YEARS OLD. HE HAS A TEENAGE DAUGHTER BY HIS PREVIOUS MARRIAGE.

6. LANCE BARNARD HAS BEEN ONE OF MY CLOSEST FRIENDS. HE HAS DONE AS MUCH FOR AUSTRALIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS IN RECENT YEARS AS ANY AUSTRALIAN I KNOW. ANY ASSISTANCE AND COURTESIES EXTENDED TO HIM WILL BE GREATLY APPRECIATED.
GREEN

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